

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 562
INFO AMCONSUL HALIFAX

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 2996

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJ: FLEMMING TO REPLACE KIRBY IN PMO

REF: OTTAWA 2629

1. MICHAEL KIRBY HAS INFORMED POLCOUNS THAT HIS SOLE NOMINEE TO REPLACE HIM AS PM TRUDEAU'S DOMESTIC POLITICAL ADVISER IS HALIFAX LAWYER BRIAN FLEMMING. KIRBY EXPECTS THE FLEMMING NOMINATION TO BE CONFIRMED BY TRUDEAU MONEMENTARILY.

2. KIRBY INDICATES THAT JOB OF ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL SECRETARY (PLANS AND POLICY) WILL BE TAILORED TO MORE MANAGEABLE PROPORTIONS, WITH KIRBY'S SPEECH -WRITING RESPONSIBILITIES GOING TO COMMUNICATIONS ADVISER RICHARD O'HAGAN AND SOME OF KIRBY'S FUNCTIONAL POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITIES BEING FARMED OUT ELSEWHERE (E.G. BILINGUALISM TO SPECIAL POLICY ADVISOR PIERRE JUNEAU). KIRBY DENIED THAT HE HAD SELECTED FLEMMING IN ORDER TO PERPETUATE MARITIME MAFIA IN PMO. WHILE HE FELT REGIONAL SPREAD WAS USEFUL, HE ALSO FELT QUITE HONESTLY THAT FLEMMING WAS THE BEST MAN HE COULD THINK OF FOR THE JOB.

3. COMMENT: FROM POINT OF VIEW OF EMBASSY'S ACCESS TO PMO, FLEMMING IS CHOICE WE COULD HARDLY IMPROVE ON SINCE WE HAVE BEEN CULTIVATING HIM FOR OVER A YEAR AS A CONTACT WITH BRIGHT FUTURE PROSPECTS (C.F. LATEST PLBRL). A SUCCESSFUL HALIFAX LAWYER, LOS EXPERT,
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UNIVERSITY (AND U.S. NAVAL WAR COLLEGE) LECTURER, MEMBER

OF PRESTIGIOUS CULTURE-SUBSIDIZING CANADA COUNCIL,
MEMBER OF TRI-CONTINENTAL COMMISSION, FLEMMING HAS A
GOOD DEAL TO BE PRETENTIOUS ABOUT, AND IS TO SOME
EXTENT. HOWEVER, HE IS BRIGHT, YOUNG (EST. MID-THIRTIES)
AND HAS DISPLAYED A DEGREE OF CANDOR IN CONTACTS WITH
EMBOFFS WHICH RIVALS THAT OF KIRBY. WHILE HIS GOVERN-
MENT EXPERIENCE HAS TO DATE BEEN ON THE FRINGES,
LEAVING HIM WITH MUCH TO LEARN ABOUT THE BUREAUCRACY,
HE WILL NOT HAVE MUCH HOMEWORK TO DO ON HOW TO SUCCEED
IN POLITICS: HE RAN AGAINST THEN-PC NATIONAL LEADER
ROBERT STANFIELD IN THE HALIFAX RIDING IN 1974 AND GAVE
STANFIELD A SCARE, REDUCING HIS PREVIOUS 8,000-VOTE
VICTORY MARGIN TO 2,500.
ENDERS

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